Matrix Reflection Paper for TOK

Write a one-page (typed please and posted on your WIKI page) reflection paper regarding The Matrix and TOK. You should focus on the question:

*What does The Matrix convey about reality? Make sure to find the “knowledge issues” involved in the movie and highlight any Ways of Knowing in your answer.*

This is due on Tuesday, September 18.

The movie, ***The Matrix***, touches upon 2 different areas of knowing on a large scale (ART/HUMAN SCIENCE). Being a form of Art (film/drama), it has a few knowledge issues that pertain to emotions and experience. Such as, ‘when watching the movie, do your experienced emotions affect how you interpret some of the messages and issues discussed in the film positively or negatively’? This knowledge issue, according to my opinion, is only semi intended to be conveyed. As it makes us consider whether our perceptions of the movies messages are biased and there for moot. Our emotions may compromise ouropinion and therefore conclusion about the knowledge issues. And this makes me think that the irony of it being an art with knowledge issues in it about perception and reality is rather humorous due to its contradictory nature.

The second area of knowledge it discusses is Human Science, specific to this area of knowledge it discusses religion. The main knowledge issue regarding religion in the movie is ‘what is a religion and what makes it up to be such a big thing in human society’. In the movie, symbolism is used to portray an equivalent of a ‘savior’ so to say. As he is believed in so unfalteringly, he begins to believe in himself allowing him to unlock the part of his mind that allows him to defy the laws set upon him by the world he lives in. simply because he believes in himself after he is believed in, his powers are proven to be true, which in turn makes him of a higher order than the rest of the people in the movie. This symbolizes how people think about certain individuals throughout human existence. The movie also shows how one can be made to believe something such as religion, proof. And that is why it asks us what religion really is. Is it just humanity’s need to believe in a higher power for salvation or is it truly a deity out there that we have recognized and have decided to believe in.

The main theme and most critical knowledge issue of ***The Matrix*** is, ‘what is reality, how can it be defined and when can we know that it is reality’. The movie shows that humans live in a virtual reality fed to them electronically by computers. In order to escape this virtual reality one must be ‘enlightened’ or ‘shown’ what the reality actually is. In the movie one man had to escape the digital world in order to free the human race. The human race then is being fed a reality by authority which makes them follow that reality’s rules and follow that reality’s beliefs. But because we believe these laws, we make them real to us because we have been shown. That is where the twist in knowledge is most apparent. Therefore belief in something,when it is proven by authority and experiences which are given to us in that specific paradigm, defines our realities and therefore cannot be proven wrong by anyone who truly believes in the parameters of that paradigm. The movie then shows us that Experience is just the world out there as it is, even though we may not truly know the world as it truly is within itself due to our limited beliefs and therefore limited knowledge. The matrix then is just a visual explanation of these knowledge issues and it answers some of the questions these knowledge issues ask but it does so with area for doubt and proof as well, truly intricate in its philosophical meaning.